

FLINTSHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM
MONDAY 20 APRIL 2015

Minutes of the fifty sixth meeting of the Flintshire Local Access Forum held at County Hall, Mold, on Monday, 20 April 2015

PRESENT: Dr. J. Rosenfeld (Chair)

Mrs. A.J. Chamberlain, Mrs. V. Darby, Mr. S.M. Gladwin, Mr. B. Harrison, Mr. J.A. Holiday, Mr. D.M. Hÿtch, Mr. M.W. Moriarty and Mr. E.G. Williams

APOLOGIES:

Mr. T. Birtles, Mr. N.J. Howell, Mr. H. White and Miss J.O. Williams

ALSO PRESENT:

Mr. Eric Owen, Flintshire Disability Forum and Mr. K. Armstrong-Braun

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr. S. Bartley, Senior Rights of Way Officer and Secretary to the Forum; Mr. A. Farrow, Chief Officer (Planning & Environment); and Miss. S. Thomas, Committee Officer

The Chair took the opportunity to welcome Mr. S. Bartley who had been appointed as the new Secretary to the Forum.

1. MINUTES

The minutes of the fifty fifth meeting of the Forum held on 23 February 2015 had been previously circulated to Members.

Accuracy

Minute Number 3 - Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP)

The Chair pointed out the omission of the word 'had' in the first line of the paragraph and asked that this be corrected.

Minute Number 4 - Progress report on cycling provision in Flintshire

Mr. John Holiday asked that the first sentence be split to reflect that this related to two separate matters.

Minute Number 6 - Discussion regarding 1) Enhancing the engagement of the Forum with Town/Community Councils and 2) Raising the general profile of the Forum

The Secretary stated that the action was for Mr. White (rather than Mr. Howell) to liaise with Mr. Stuart Jones.

Minute Number 7 - Approval of the Twelfth Annual Report of the Forum

The Chair requested that the resolution note endorsement of the twelfth annual report rather than the eleventh.

Subject to the four amendments detailed above, the minutes were approved by the Forum.

Matters Arising

Minute Number 2 - Minutes/Matters Arising

Mrs. Vera Darby had not yet received a response from the Chief Officer (Streetscene and Transportation) to her concerns raised on grass cutting. The Chair suggested that this be discussed under the final agenda item so that officers could be invited to a future meeting of the Forum.

Minute Number 6 - Discussion regarding 1) Enhancing the engagement of the Forum with Town/Community Councils and 2) Raising the general profile of the Forum

On enhancing engagement of the Forum with Town/Community Councils, the Secretary advised that Mr. Howard White had not yet been able to liaise with Mr. Stuart Jones who was currently on leave.

Mr. Farrow explained that he had passed details of the Forum to Joanne Pierce in the Chief Executive's section who would make contact to arrange for a presentation at the next County Forum meeting on 25 June 2015.

Raising awareness of the general profile of the Forum had been discussed at the informal meeting on 23 March 2015. The minutes, which were attached to the agenda for this meeting, included a number of actions such as the Forum writing its own annual reports and engagement with the Council's Press Office to develop a strategy for periodic press releases. The Chair referred to previous minutes shown on the FLAF website and suggested that members of the Forum could take turns to provide additional commentary on news updates following each meeting. He said that the Press Office may be able to provide guidance on how to best approach this and that the IT section could advise on the creation of links between the FLAF website and that of the Flintshire Disability Forum.

As another strand of awareness raising, it was hoped that Destination Flintshire meetings would be revived so that Mr. Neville Howell (the FLAF representative) could attend.

The Chair said that he hoped that the Forum would retain links with Streetscene and that regular attendance by an appropriate officer would provide a mechanism for feeding back information on issues raised. He added that it would be useful for the new structure to be shared with the Forum at the next meeting.

Minute Number 10 - Possible Future Agenda Items

Mr. Farrow agreed to liaise with Mr. Howard White on the types of planning applications which required consultation with the Forum.

Mr. White to liaise with Mr. Jones to discuss the current position for the footpath alongside Mold By-Pass in the Argoed Community Council area.

To await contact from Joanne Pierce on arrangements for a presentation by the Forum at the next County Forum meeting.

To progress the actions from the informal meeting to raise the profile of the Forum and enhance engagement with Town/Community Councils.

The Secretary to arrange for a copy of the new Streetscene structure to be shared at the next meeting of the Forum.

Mr. Farrow to liaise with Mr. White on the types of planning applications requiring consultation with the Forum.

2. RIGHTS OF WAY IMPROVEMENT PLAN (ROWIP)

The Secretary reported no update since the previous meeting and explained that guidance was awaited from the Welsh Government on how to proceed with the refresh of ROWIP.

3. PROGRESS REPORT ON CYCLING PROVISION IN FLINTSHIRE

Whilst Mr. David Hÿtch acknowledged comments previously made by Neal Cockerton on improving sections of the coastal cycle route where it was possible to do so, he pointed out that a cycleway should run between two points to be viable. He welcomed some improvements such as the section from Talacre to Ffynnongroyw but reported problems on the Cheshire side between Connah's Quay and Chester. Similarly, he praised work to the section from Ffynnongroyw to Mostyn but pointed out gaps leading to Bagillt. He also stated that the area between Llannerch-y-mor and Mostyn required access to the seawall and felt that the gap between the recycling park in Greenfield and Bettisfield should be progressed. In addition, between Connah's Quay and Flint, he pointed out significant safety issues towards Flint and emphasised the need to progress the bridge at Northop.

When asked by the Chair about funding for improving the route, Mr. Farrow explained that Streetscene had submitted bids and were managing projects and that the role of the Forum was important in helping to prioritise developments and identify the greatest pressures. He suggested that it might be useful to convene a sub-group to identify priorities and bring them to the next meeting. It was agreed that the sub-group would consist of Mr. Farrow, Mr. Hÿtch, Mr. Holiday and Mrs. Darby. Mr. Farrow agreed to seek a representative from Streetscene to join the sub-group.

Mr. Holiday highlighted the NCN5 as an important tourist route to North Wales and pointed out that a number of negative comments had been mentioned on cycling forums in relation to the absence of links along the route.

As an update on the cycleway between Saltney and Broughton, Mr. Farrow reported that work on Phase 1 was nearing completion following some work to street lighting. Phase 2 was due to start later in the year once the land ownership issues had been resolved.

With the permission of the Chair, Mr. Armstrong-Braun thanked the Council for the timeliness of the work but asked why the route was one-way from Saltney to Broughton as the width enabled two-way use. Mr. Farrow said that the route appeared to be well utilised and that he had witnessed users going both ways. He added that although the signs faced one direction only, there were no regulations to stipulate that the route could not be used both ways.

Mr. Farrow to liaise with Mr. Hýtch, Mr. Holiday and Mrs. Darby on the cycling sub-group and to seek a representative from Streetscene.

4. ROWIP EQUINE SUB-GROUP

Mrs. Darby reported that the sub-group had not met since the last meeting. Mr. Farrow said it had been agreed to hold the meetings twice yearly.

5. POSSIBLE FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- (a) Safety concerns for users of roadside verges as a result of a reduction in frequency of grass cutting services, with an invitation extended to a representative of Streetscene together with the Council's Ecologist and Biodiversity Officers

Following a request from the Chair, the Secretary agreed to contact Streetscene to request that an officer attend the next meeting of the Forum to discuss these concerns. Previous discussion on this topic had included a suggestion for the Council's Ecologist (Amanda Davies) and Biodiversity Officers to also attend.

- (b) Provision of roadside footpaths and pavements in rural areas, used by non-motorised road users, joined up to the footpath, eg Bryn Road between Buckley and Bryn-y-Baal

The Chair asked that the Secretary schedule this for the next meeting.

- (c) Countryside Access Management System (CAMS) Demonstration

The Secretary anticipated that the demonstration could be arranged for the next meeting, depending on progress in completing the adjustments to the system.

(d) Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013

To be scheduled for a future meeting, pending further information.

(e) Raising the profile of the Forum and re-engaging with Town/Community Councils

Update on progress arising from the informal meeting on 23 March 2015.

(f) Tourism / Destination Flintshire

Mr. Farrow advised that tourism was under the remit of the Community & Enterprise portfolio. The Chair stated that the Forum could have a role in helping to advise on priorities for tourism strategies, historic sites etc and asked if this could be included on the agenda for the next meeting. Mr. Farrow agreed to liaise with the Secretary.

(g) Update on Countryside Service developments

In response to a request for updates on progress, the Secretary advised that Mr. Tom Woodall attended meetings of the Forum when updates were available and that he consulted with Mr. Woodall when finalising the agenda.

(h) Any Other Business

Following discussion, the Chair requested that the Secretary include this as a standard item on future agendas.

The Forum agreed to note these items for consideration at future meetings.

6. TIME AND DATE OF NEXT AND FUTURE MEETINGS

The following provisional meetings dates for 2015/16 were agreed, as the Council's Diary of Meetings was not yet approved.

13 July 2015 at 2pm

12 October 2015 at 2pm

11 January 2016 at 2pm

7. DURATION OF MEETING

The meeting commenced at 2pm and finished at 2.50pm.

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Chair